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Tender Awarded for Sackville Heights Work

Department of Education and Culture (to July 99)
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Major renovations are another step closer for Sackville Heights Junior High with the awarding of a tender to Corkum Construction Ltd.

The $8-million project will mean more space to support programs and growing enrolment, structural improvements, and a more modern, welcoming school for students, teachers and staff.

Sackville Heights Junior High was built in the mid-1960s. Since that time, the educational needs of students have changed. The renovations will give students new art and music rooms, a new gymnasium and a full-service cafeteria. They will also have access to technology in a new information centre.

Enrolment at the school is expected to grow to 750 students in the coming school years, so an additional six classrooms will be created. The roof, windows, ventilation system, electrical system, and flooring will be replaced.

Education and Culture Minister Robbie Harrison said the renovations are part of the government's commitment to quality education for Nova Scotia's students.

"Our government is putting children and education among its top priorities," he said. "Part of that commitment is ensuring our young people have good schools. Sackville Heights Junior High is already a great school, and in January 1999 -- with more space for everything from music to technology -- this great school will be even better."

Norma Kennedy, chair of the Halifax Regional School Board, said board members are pleased the work will soon begin. "The community has helped identify the needs and has been part of the planning. With the awarding of the tender to Corkum Construction Ltd., the project will be soon under way, and we'll have a school that inspires pride among the entire community."

Renovations are scheduled to be completed by January 1999. Additions to the school will be completed by March 1999. Students at Sackville Heights Junior High will be moved to other schools during the renovations.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is a partner in the project, providing $200,000 to upgrade the school's playing field.

"The community has always been welcomed at Sackville Heights Junior High," said Ms. Kennedy. "This contribution builds on the community partnership."

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